(b) what mechanism is adopted in calculating the component of petroleum and natural gas in the cost of fertilizer production; and

(c) what are the reasons of frequent rise in the rates of fertilizers for which natural gas supplied remains under the control of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The farmgate price of urea has been increased by 20% w.e.f. 10.6.1994. This has been done to contain the mounting subsidy bill and to check imbalance in the use of various plant nutrients by extending special concessions on decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers during the current year.

(b) and (c) The cost of feedstock, petroleumbased or natural gas, in the manufacture of fertilizers is calculated on its actual price coupled with efficiency norms prescribed for each manufacturing unit.

Periodical increases in the administered prices of feedstocks are taken into account in calculating the retention price of each manufacturing unit. These revisions, however, do not automatically result in increase in the farmgate price of urea.

हिन्दुस्तान फर्टिलाइजर्स कारपोरेशन के नामरूप एकक के कर्मचारियों की छंटनी

3082. श्री अजीत जोगी: क्या रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या नामरूप स्थित हिन्दुस्तान फर्टिलाईजर्स कारपोरेशन के लगभग एक लाख कर्मचारियों की छंटनी की जा रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या उनके लिए कोई वैकल्पिक सेवा योजना का प्रस्ताव किया गया है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है?

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एडुआर्डो फेलेरियो): (क) से (घ) 1.7.1994 को, हिन्दुस्तान फर्टिलाइजर्स कार्पोरेशन के नामरूप एकक में केवल 2623 कर्मचारी कार्यरत थे। इस समय, उनकी छंटनी का कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है।

Effect of Imports on Penicillin

3083. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the free imports of many bulk durgs and drug intermediates, the prices will come down;

(b) if so, what will happen in the case of Penicillin; and

(c) what steps Government are taking for the survival of IDPL and HAL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Imports of bulk drugs and intermediates are governed by the provisions of Export and Import Policy (1992—97). 8 categories of bulk drugs/intermediates, including Penicillin are included in the Negative List of Imports, subject to import licence, taking into account the need to ensure adequate availability and to safeguard the interest of the indigenous basic stage manufacturers like M/s. Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited and M/s. Hindustan Antibiotics Limited.

Penicillin produced by Torrent Spic and JK Plants

3084. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Torrent Spic and JK plants which intend to start production in the next two years will have Penicillin production cost higher than HAL's; and

(b) if so, in what manner Government propose to restrict the Penicillin prices to substantiate and protect these producers?